

Fellow Navy Professionals,

Since its creation by the Continental Congress on Oct. 13, 1775, our Navy has earned a proud record of service to our nation. U.S. history is full of examples of both the individual and collective courage and commitment of Navy Sailors. Our reputation of service, from the Revolutionary War to the Global War on Terror, is unparalleled in recorded history.

As our Navy has changed and grown during 229 years, so also has the nature of our service. It has evolved from its beginning as a group of volunteer citizen-Sailors, to a mixture of volunteers and conscripts, to the present-day, all-volunteer force of professional Sea Warriors. And, as the nature of Navy service has evolved, so also has the nature and level of compensation in regard to pay and benefits.

The total compensation package available to a Sailor today is unmatched in military history. From the opportunity for diverse job assignments around the world; to education; advancement; pay and bonuses; individual and family medical and dental care; and retirement, the U.S. Navy has become one of the “employers of choice” in our world.

Our Human Capital Strategy supports the evolution of our Navy toward a leaner, smarter and more adaptable force, better able to meet the threats ahead in the 21st century. This means our Navy will continue to invest in the growth and development of its most valuable resource--our people. To Sailors who meet and maintain the requirements and standards that a life of national service demands, the Navy offers virtually unlimited opportunity.

This handbook has been prepared to outline the benefits of service in the Navy today. It will afford all Sailors the opportunity to make informed decisions as they weigh their options and chart their course in life.

We appreciate your service to our Navy and our nation.

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This Handbook is intended as a reference guide of current Navy programs and career-enhancing opportunities available to the fleet. The information provided is current as of time of printing. Changes to programs are announced through official naval messages and instructions. Unless otherwise noted, articles and information in this Handbook may be reprinted and disseminated without permission.

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